

# TNC Meeting Minutes

Jan. 27, 2025

## Rural Health Clinics

Ralph Duckworth and Rev. Austern Chepiri

- Scott Sanford, Jim Gourley and Ralph Duckworth plan to attend the Chindenga dedication on Feb. 22

## Engineers Without Borders and Critical Vehicles

Kevin Riley, Christopher Kuwana, EWB CMU students, Dr. Larry and Gashi Chikonyora  
Infrastructure & related items

- Starlink WiFi is being pursued by individual departments according to Tinashe Chiimba. He reports that the cost for a Mission wide system is too expensive and notes that the College has already installed their system and Tinashe is going ahead with the purchase for Home of Hope. He has agreed to send an overview of Starlink contacts, costs, infrastructure (like power needs and options) and issues to address like blocking inappropriate content or authorized access to the other Mission departments.
- Field bore hole pump replacement and solar power addition: Christopher noted no Mission funds for pump replacement until the new year, which is now. No current update but solar power contract funding advance to the electrical contractor is on hold pending that purchase.
- Hospital Power Backup: A proposal to update all hospital solar arrays with new batteries and inverters (~\$20,000 or two ~\$10,000 phases) had been provided with a suggestion for the hospital to pursue Conference or other non-TNC funding. The Conference was contacted and no funds are available for this with current drought food funding and overall economic conditions. Funding this via a possible loan from TNC was proposed to Hospital management with payback based on generator diesel fuel savings. This is still being discussed.

## Hospital Vehicles

- All in operation.
- Sale of all “parked” vehicles at the Shop was proposed to Rev. Mukundu with a proposed sharing of 70% to the owner, 20% to the Central Station and 10% to the Shop for facility, equipment and tool updates. He supported the idea and was to discuss with Christopher.

## EWB (Engineers Without Borders)

- CMU students are back in session. There has been good student participation at the meetings with usually 8-10 in attendance. EWB National has requested additional information and some drawings to consider what was submitted as a complete application. Various fundraising is being considered to help fund future travel to Nyadire with a projected departure date of May 7.

## **Girl Empowerment**

Bonnie Lawson, Charity Horiro, Crescencia Dangarembga

Ongoing Program

- Inventory of supplies are being gathered. Next step is to develop a 2025 purchasing plan.
- Final grant report to UMCOR completed. Contains impact stories of girls and women served.

Girl Empowerment Garden Pilot

- Borehole drilled on October 17. Water at 85 meters. Failed capacity test.
- Well/Irrigation Project on hold. Equipment stored at HOH. Waiting for a response from ABI.
- 90 day maize has been planted in the girl garden (lime treated) failed.
- Sugar beans have just been planted.

Communication and Fundraising

- Article for Western PA UWF Spring newsletter submitted.

Looking Forward

- Inspired Women Funding Cycle: January 2025

## **Agriculture**

Scott Sanford

Situation in Nyadire

- Rains have not been cooperative and crops are suffering

Farm Department

Poultry Enterprise

- 6 people went through a 7-week training program at Irvines for commercial broiler keeping
- Chicken house is complete but waiting for fencing, toilet and showers to be built so that we can receive the first batch
- Waiting for Funding to complete the above

Crops

- 2025 has poor rain distribution
- Maize has been affected by a dry spell
- Need to plant 1 hectare of beans by February 5 but currently fields are too wet as the rains have been continuous
- Tractor challenges including leaking radiator

Home of Hope

Crops

- Maize crop, water stressed and dried up
- Replanted using short variety/quick maturing crops.
- Portions planted not large.

- Germination has taken place and due to good moisture content germination is 100%.
- Laid drip irrigation in a sizeable portion of the field where the maize crop is so it can be irrigated if the rain abruptly stops.
- A large portion of where our maize crop failed is now replanted to beans. Germination was good and the crop is doing well.
- Land preparation is in progress for summer tomato crop.

#### Livestock

- Our laying hens have reached their peak laying point and we sell a crate of eggs for \$4.00.
- Reduced our pigs to below 10 due to a lack of grain.
- Goat project doing well

#### Crop variety trials

- Planning to meet with Jembere Casper, Teachers college instructor, during February trip, about doing some crop trials

#### Farm Department Poultry Barn

- They have secured a market and Esnath has been in training at an Irvines facility in December-January
- Sent \$850 to Esnath for sugar bean seed and fertilizer on Nov 28.

#### Poultry-Grain Storage Barn

- Permanent wiring for building so milling equipment can be moved to grain storage building.
- Quote 074 – Lincoln – Hillwise Electrical - \$3,594 ... Need a funding source
- No Action this month.

#### Feb 2025 trip plans

- Work out plan for crop trials at Nyadire with Jembere as lead with input from others at Nyadire and surrounding community
- Build a rocket stove for HOH or the Primary School with Christopher's group
- Build nest boxes for HOH poultry barn
- Investigate Greenhouse enterprise potential at Nyadire
- Visit Hanwa Mission greenhouse project installed May 2024
- Meet with Total Farm Systems, Hanwa greenhouse supplier
- Attend the Chindenga Clinic dedication
- Continue work on 5-year plans with Emmanuel and start work on 5-year plan with Esnath
- Discuss the potential for an Annual meeting of farm department personnel/leaders from all missions to share ideas and network

## **Home of Hope, Home of Hope Outreach, Scholarships**

Mary Beth Zollars

### HOHO – 22 schools in all

- An enormous thank you to Tom Greway and St. Paul's for their annual renewals.
- Wire transfer of Term 1 school fees has been requested.
- Marie is re-assigning those who have finished or left the program.
- Adding attendance (and degree of effort) to rubric of staying in program, especially for 7th graders and secondary students
- Government feeding program at all schools, especially primary
- Good enrollment; 5 are going on to A-levels

### S.Y.STEM

- Coding Club Star: Mrs. Portia Mambwere – Math teacher at Nyadire Primary

### HOH

- Jan/Feb funds have been sent.
- Higher Life Foundation now covers school fees for all HOH children, except for the new nine children and Tanaka.
- Little Tanaka is taking medication and is doing very well. She is even able to walk all the way to school and back.
- There are now three new sibling groups (total of 9 children). 11/29 - 3 more children; 12/25 - 2 girls
- Emmanuel has hired two additional mothers, Madei Chimpembere (Fradreck's wife) and Tintotenda Mupaya (did internship at HOH); this requires an increase in the budget.
- Funds have been sent for 2 more outdoor kitchens; funds needed for appliances & silverware needed for last kitchen.
- Collaborative and Joined Hands for the Needy: This is a group of former HOH children who are working together to provide support for others like them. They visited the children in December treating them with gifts and food.
- Raymond Chimbwanda tutored the children every day to fulfill his community service agreement to fulfill his loan for his licensure.
- Emmie Bush (Dutilh UMC), a high school senior, will be holding a fundraiser (refreshments and cookies) at the church talent show on February 7. Funds will go towards new school uniforms.
- Dedication of HOH will only occur when the Finish people come.
- Christmas song exchange was made between the HOH and the Carol Choir.
- A generous sponsor donated money for a HOH Christmas Party. Many thanks!
- Loice is no longer at the Home of Hope. She is at Mother of Peace Orphanage.
- Loan repayment has begun.
- Some children went for "holidays" during December.
- Bishop Bashore, a longtime sponsor of Beauty and recently Peter and Knowledge, has passed away. MHRIP.
- MB presenting lessons to Wednesday Night ChristKids about the HOH; each week we send video messages back and forth.

### SISTER RUT SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM:

- MB is preparing the BP-USC Rotary Grant application for the scholarship students.
- Congratulations: Campion Mujuru University of Zimbabwe; medicine; passed all exams; awaiting graduation
- Professional Licenses: Raymond Chimbwanda, recent graduate in Real Estate, has applied to a variety of districts and is interested in getting his real estate license. We have offered him some funding to get his license to be repaid in part and includes community service.
- Finished awaiting graduation: Lorraine Kapembeza: Africa University, Accounting, 4.2, has finished all requirements and has received her transcript. Graduation next June is the next step!

#### Fourth Year students:

- Tinashe Mapfumbidze, (MSU) 4.2 student; Midland States University; Business Management; He is making up classes from last semester when he fell ill and will finish his dissertation. However, he must complete his community service and get certain documents from his school supervisors to qualify for tuition.
- Rutendo Mupfawa, University of Zimbabwe, Honours Program for Accounting and Finance; 4.2 student; Her dissertation topic: creating a model of reducing the effects of exchange rate fluctuations on trade.
- Blessing Mabii, accepted at Midland States University, Business Studies, 4.s, working on dissertation.
- Panashe Mafemera: Bindura University, Peace and Governance (tuition only) – 4.2 student.

#### Third Year students:

- Nyasha Given Katema: Zimbabwe Institute for Legal Studies. Finishing his attachment as a prosecutor; starting next-to-last term.
- Praise Mashumba, Midland States University, Human Resources Management (tuition only); 3.2 student, found attachment at Zimbabwe Space Agency!

#### Second Year:

- Praise Josi: (tuition only) Midland States University, Data Science, 2.2
- Morejoy Madzika, University of Zimbabwe, Medicine, 2.2 (tuition only)

#### First Year:

- Josphat Nyatoro (HOHO): Nyadire College of Education, 1.2
- Precious Muripo (HOH): Kushinga Phikelela College, electrical engineering, 1.2; attachment from August 2025-July 2026 will follow to complete program.

#### Graduate Students:

- Tsungirai Makoni, University of Zimbabwe, Actuarial Science, Masters; last of 3 semesters.

#### TABUDIRIRA VOCATIONAL CENTRE:

- Onias Chengai (HOHO), Tabudirira Vocational Centre, electrician training, attachment

#### NAKHIWA VOCATIONAL CENTRE:

- Theresa Nyadembera, attachment in 2025 pending last term's results and community service
- Nyasha Alfabeti (HOHO), building, started in 2024, will finish coursework in 2024

#### AGRICULTURAL SCHOLARSHIP:

- Tinashe Katsuro: agriculture at Africa University, 3.2. Current courses are: Project Appraisal and Evaluation, Pasture and Range management, Community Based Natural Resources Management, Management of Drainage Basins and Water Resources, and Ecotourism.
- Delight Katsata: BSC Honours Program in Crop Improvement and Seed Systems at the University of Zimbabwe, 3.2 student. Doing attachment at Kutsaga Research.
- Praise Tsaurai, agricultural engineering CUT (Chinoyi University of Technology); 2.2 student. Current courses: Fluid Mechanics, Engineering Hydrology, Engineering Numerical Analysis and Modelling, Thermodynamics and Heat Transfer
- Yvette Mutize, Agriculture; Kashinga Phikelela Agricultural College; already completed horticulture at Kashinga Phikelela Polytechnic School; 3.2 student, doing attachment. (3-year program). Her diploma in agriculture covers five sections: agri-business, animal science, crop science, horticulture, and engineering. Her area of greatest interest is horticulture, followed by engineering.

#### Possible new candidates:

- Joseph Visent, Midland States University, Accounting (on hold)
- Malvin Katsande, Speciss, IT & Secretarial School, Harare (on hold)
- Kudakwashe Nyamunda, Nyadire College of Education (on hold)
- Jeremiah Nyabote, Nyadire College of Education (on hold)
- Vimbai Kativhu, AG, Kashinga Phikelela Polytechnic School (on hold)
- Gamuchirai Chidsvondo, AG (on hold)
- Matilda Matirasa, AG (on hold)

#### Presentations

- November 24, 2024, Faith & Justice Class, CUMC, invited MBZ to speak about the trip.
- MBZ will be doing a month-long Zimbabwe activity/learning class for ChristKids in January 2025.

#### Craft Sales

- St. Paul's Mission Mall, Saturday, November 23. Thank you to Tom Greway and Kevin Riley.
- Craft Sale at Mt. Lebanon UMC, December.
- Spring Craft Fair at CUMC, Sat., April 26, 9:30-3. Looking for volunteers.

## **VIM**

Molly Michael/Mary Beth Zollars

- MBZ needs a co-leader, in order to lead a team next summer (June-ish) 2025.
- Emmanuel welcomes the idea of a team coming during the school holidays, as well.
- Deborah is considering leading an H-I trip in June/July 2025.

## **Hearing Innovation**

Deborah Swineford

- Term 1 2025 has started well with 27 learners (10 in the junior's class with Simbarashe and 17 in the infant's class with Evajoyce). They are expecting 1 more to enroll after recovering from surgery.
- Plans continue for June HI mission trip. Three volunteers committed, waiting to get confirmation from 2 others
- HI preparing for Leah's coming to work as full-time missionary with the Deaf children. She hopes to arrive in April, but no later than June; contingent on visa and paperwork being in order.

## **Communications**

Tim Wesley

- December newsletter published
  - Thanks to Marjorie Dold for her Nyadire interviews
- Western PA Conference
  - Scheduling call to discuss next steps
- Network churches
  - Christ Church: Discussing expanded presence
  - Mt. Lebanon: Submitted GEP article for newsletter
- TNC 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary, 2026
  - Debbie Little will lead planning team ... meeting later this week
- Distribution lists: Will be updating and consolidating
- TNC Social: Planning Spring gathering

**Next Zoom call meeting: Monday, Feb. 24, 6:30 pm**